(b) if so, by when it is likely to have a heavy tower T.V relay Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (PROF. K.K. TEWARY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A high power (10 KW) TV transmitter which is under implementation at Bundi in Rajasthan is expected to provide service to Kota and its surrounding areas. This high power TV transmitter is expected to be commissioned during 1991 on construction of the building and tower and receipt and installation of the equipment on order.

Productivity of Oilseeds

478. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether oilseed productivity has improved significantly due to the Technology Mission and if so, the figures of present productivity of different oilseeds as compared to the best figures before the Mission;

(b) whether it is a fact that at present 2 Government intervention agencies are working in oilseed/vegetable oil sector and if so, whether only one agency will be permitted to handle this work;

(c) whether it is also a fact that prices of mustard oil have gone down due to gift and other imports of rape seed oil which is being passed on as mustard oil at lower price; and

(d) whether pricing and marketing of all vegetable oils imported or otherwise is proposed to be handled and channelised only by NAFED under Government supervision which will enable NDDB to concentrate on milk production so that commercial imports of milk powder are stopped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The Technology Mission on Oilseeds was started in May, 1986. Due to the concerted efforts of the partners of the Mission, namely, ICAR, the Department of Agriculure & Cooperation and the State Agriculture Departments to support the farmers, a record production of an estimated 17.8 million tonnes is likely to be reached in 1988-89. Oilseeds productivity per hectare in 1988-89 is expected to be around 800 kgs. per ha. as against the pre-Mission peak of 684 kgs. per ha. in 1984-85. In the first two yers of the Mission, despite indifferent monsoons, the productivity per ha. increased from 570 kgs. in the pre-Mission year (1985-86) to 605 kgs. in 1986-87 and 619 kgs. in 1987-88. Detailed figures reflecting the productivity of different oilseeds in the year 1988-89 are not yet available since some of the States are yet to report their area and production levels.

(b) It is a fact that two Government supported agencies—NAFED and NDDB—are entrusted with price support/market intervention operations in oilseeds/vegetable oils sector. Their roles are complementary.

NAFED has been entrusted with price support operations in all States of India in respect of *four oilseeds*, namely, groundnut, rape seed/mustard, soybean and sunflower. NAFED procures from the farmers these oilseeds of fair average quality on behalf of the Government only if the market price tends to go below the support levels.

On the other hand, the NDDB has a mandate to maintain the wholesale prices of *two oils*, namely, groundnut oil and rape seed/mustard oil, within the prescribed price band. The price band is so designed that

it is just and fair both to the farmers and the consumers. In the post harvest season, NDDB, along with its seven affiliated Oilseeds Growers' Federations, embarks on market intervention operations to ensure that the oil/oilseeds prices are within the prescribed price band to encourage the oilseeds farmer. The stock of oil, procured through the NDDB's market intervention operations, is sold in the lean season with a view to give relief to the consumers. The NDDB system operates in seven important oilseed growing States which account for 80% of total production and in important markets.

In view of the complementary nature of their operations, NAFED and NDDB will continue with their respective mandates.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

Import of pig iron

479. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under Government's consideration to import pig iron; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During 1989-90, there is a proposal to import about 3 lakh tonnes of pig iron to meet primarily the requirements of foundry units, spun pipe and railway sleeper manufacturers. In addition, another 2 lakh tonnes of basic grade pig iron are likely to be imported from USSR for use by electric arc furnace units.

Danger of pesticides poisoning

480. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item under the caption 'Poison in Your Food' which appeared in the *India Today* of the 15th June, 1989 by noted writer Raj Changapa and his team drawing attention to lack of infrastructure to monitor, evaluate and correct the dangers to human health from pesticides; and

(b) if so, what corrective steps Government propose to take on several gaps and anomalies in the existing set up, even after 35 years the first serious poisoning in 1953 in Kerala which killed 102 people ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Since the first serious poisoning during 1953 in Kerala the Government of India has enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 to regulate the import, manufacture, sale, transport, distribution and use of insecticides with a view to preventing risks to human beings or animals, and for matters connected therewith ;

(ii) Pesticide residue tolerance limits on food commodities have been prescribed in respect of 31 pesticides under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954;

(iii) The packages of agricultural practices, recommended by the Extension Agencies take into consideration the maximum residue limits, suggested by Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and include suitable waiting periods for various pesticides used on different crop;